

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 659, which revises provisions governing expedited administrative and judicial review of California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) decisions governing the Department of Water Resources power purchases procured on behalf of utility customers during the energy crisis.

Although the intent of the measure is to limit the number of CPUC decisions that may be appealed under an expedited administrative review process, its language is not clear. As drafted, SB 659 might create confusion among applicants for rehearing before the CPUC with regard to the scope of the law and its procedural requirements. This confusion could cause some of them to miss their opportunity to seek timely review of a CPUC decision.

Therefore, I am signing SB 659 with the expectation that future legislation will be passed to clarify the scope of the expedited rehearing and judicial review rules.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger